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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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DOERING SCHOOL

Crime stopper to math solver

Former NYPD detective finds new challenge teaching middle school

By Mike Lydick
 aan@turley.com

Deborah Maisonave spent 20 years helping to solve crimes on the streets of New York City. Now she's helping students in Agawam solve math problems.

A teacher at Roberta Doering School, she started teaching in Agawam in September after 10 years at a Holyoke middle school.

Maisonave retired from the New York Police Department in 2003 after a 20-year career. Promoted to detective in 1999, she began her law enforcement career in 1983 when she was appointed to the New York City Transit Police Department, which merged with the NYPD in 1995.

Eligible to retire at age 42, she turned in her badge and gun and started looking for a new career. Maisonave thought about becoming a professional chef, but realized it would require nights and weekends: "I had had 20 years of that."



Deborah Maisonave retired from the NYPD in 2003, and is now helping students solve math problems at Roberta Doering School. ABOVE: TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK; INSET: SUBMITTED PHOTO

TEACHER | page 12

CITY COUNCIL

Cichetti, Mineo chosen to lead top board

Longtime president Johnson declines re-election bid

By Gregory A. Scibelli
 gscibelli@turley.com

The Agawam City Council may not have changed much on Election Day, but a new guard took over this week.

At its annual reorganization meeting Monday, the council elected a new president and vice president, replacing Christopher Johnson, who declined another term leading the board, and Dennis Perry, the only incumbent councilor to lose his bid for re-election in 2015.

Fourth-term Councilor James Cichetti was unanimously elected president. It is the first time Cichetti has been elected to a leadership role on the main council. He was chairman of the Legislative Subcommittee during the past two years.

Joseph Mineo, who enters his ninth term on the council, was unanimously elected vice pres-

Mayor pledges frugal, friendly term at swearing-in ceremony, page 3

COUNCIL | page 11

LABOR DISPUTE

School nurses, town still disagree over contract

By Mike Lydick
 aan@turley.com

For more than two years, school nurses and the town have been attempting to agree on a new contract. The most recent attempt — a fact-finding hearing to determine appropriate salary increases — still may not resolve the dispute.

The Massachusetts Nurses Association, which represents the nine nurses at Agawam schools, requested a fact-finding hearing from the state's labor relations division when mediation was unsuccessful. A hearing was held in September for both sides to present arguments and documents to a fact-finder.

The nurses' proposal is a 15 percent base wage increase over three years — 5 percent each year.

The town's offer — a nearly 15 percent salary increase over five years — is no increase for 2013-14, followed by yearly increases of 4.43 percent, 3.14 percent, 3.26 percent, and 3.10 percent for 2017-18.

Harvey M. Shrage, the fact-finder appointed by the state Division of Labor, backed the town's plan in late November, rejecting the union proposal. Mayor Richard Cohen said the town is pleased that a neutral party agrees that its proposal is "reasonable and appropriate."

He added that based upon the fact-finder's award, the town's proposal will be presented to the City Council for a vote. "I'm hopeful that the [Nurses] Association will also submit the fact-finder's

NURSES | page 7

GEOGRAPHY BEE



The top ten competitors test their knowledge at Agawam Junior High School's Geography Bee on Dec. 21. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

Social studies faceoff ends with 2 champions at AJHS

By Mike Lydick
 aan@turley.com

Ten junior high school students proved recently that they know a lot about the world and how it works when they competed in the school's annual National Geographic Geography Bee.

More challenging than a spell-

ing bee, the Geo Bee tests students understanding of geographic facts about places and things around the world. This year's winner was eighth grader Zachary "Zach" Quick, who gave the most correct answers. Seventh grader Christian Rua was named co-champion.

Both students were among 10 finalists competing on stage in

the school's auditorium on Dec. 21 as their classmates, teachers, the superintendent, the assistant superintendent and the mayor watched. Finalists were determined by the results of a preliminary test all AJHS students took in November.

BEE | page 13

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24 PAGES

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper. Let them know you saw their ad in the Agawam Advertiser

Alzheimer's disease seminar next week

The Agawam Senior Center will host a seminar on memory loss and Alzheimer's disease at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13. The seminar will take place in the Garden Room at 954 Main St., Agawam, and will include information about national clinical drug trials for mild to moderate memory impairment being offered at Springfield Neurology Research.

It is estimated that over five million people in the United States have Alzheimer's disease, a progressive brain disease which affects the way a person thinks, reasons and solves problems. Over time, it can also alter behavior, personality and language. Current medications can help manage some of the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, but there is no cure, which is why doctors are researching new kinds of therapies that may help better manage these symptoms.

Registration is required for this presentation. Call Kristina Lynch at 413-821-0605, ext. 2, to sign up.

You Asked?



Work on the Springfield Water Department's South Transmission Line is underway along Route 57 between Main Street and the Agawam Rotary, seen here at James Avenue. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

I believe water lines are being replaced along 57 but I have asked people and no one knows what it is.
— Barry, via email

The construction work along the eastern end of Route 57 is the final phase of the South Transmission Line replacement, a \$24 million project being undertaken by the Springfield Water Water and Sewer Commission. The pipeline is one of three that carry water from Provin Mountain to a treatment center in Springfield, where it feeds the water supply of several communities, including Agawam. The six-mile pipeline replacement project started in Feeding Hills in September 2014 and has about 5,000 feet remaining, according to Joyce Mulvaney, a spokesman for the Water and Sewer Commission. Mulvaney said the contractor, Baltazar Construction, will continue to work

through the winter as weather permits, and the city anticipates completion in the mid- to late summertime. The current work includes a crossing of Editha Avenue, but no other road closures will be necessary, as the portion of the transmission line east of Ellison Avenue — including the route under the Agawam Rotary and across the Connecticut River — was already replaced in 2010. Mulvaney mentioned that the Water and Sewer Commission "does very much appreciate the patience of the residents of Agawam during this project."

"You Asked?" is an occasional series of short articles answering questions of local interest from Agawam Advertiser News readers and social media. See something around town you'd like to know more about? Email your question to aan@turley.com.



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Mayor, councilors share priorities as new terms begin

'We need to be friends'

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

For the eldest member of the Agawam City Council, Donald Rheault, getting sworn in on Sunday felt just as special as the first time he was sworn in more than 30 years ago.

Only then, the newest city councilor Richard Theroux was being sworn in at just 19 years old. Theroux participated in the next three decades' worth of ceremonies as town clerk.

The mayor, councilors and School Committee members were sworn in at a ceremony held Jan. 3 at the Roberta Doering School.

With Theroux moving on to the private sector as well as taking his new place as a councilor, the oaths of office were given by Springfield Judge Mary Hurley. Hurley first swore in Mayor Richard Cohen, who took the oath for the eighth time.

Cohen said he was excited to be re-elected to a two-year term and pledged to work with the city council to move Agawam forward during the next two years.

"We need to be friends working together for the good of Agawam," said Cohen.

Cohen said he came up with the concept of friendship when looking over an old Agawam Advertiser News article detailing Councilor George Bitzas' first time being sworn into office.

"George talked about being friends and working in cooperation with each other," said Cohen. "I thought it was really fitting. I want myself and the council to work together."

The mayor said elected officials need to get along and work together to fix problems.

"We need to be kind to each other," said Cohen. "When something is broken, we will work together to fix it. When something is working, we will show we believe in it by banding together to make it stronger."

The mayor pledged to be a mayor of all the people and not just a select few. He asked the people to trust in the administration and leadership.

"I believe that local government is a vehicle for our hopes for a better society," said Cohen.

Cohen also pledged to be frugal and conservative when it came to the town's finances and to have an open and inclusive leadership style, where he is accessible to the people.

He encouraged all town officials to be hardworking, honest, and transparent to the people they are responsible to.

The ceremony included the swearing in of nine city councilors and five School Committee members. Those that did not make the ceremony were sworn in at the town clerk's office earlier this week.

Bitzas was among those taking the oath at the ceremony, his 14th.

"It feels the same as it did the first time," said Bitzas. "I am always very honored and humbled to get to serve the people."

Rheault said the seriousness of the ceremony shows the importance of the office of city councilor. He enters his 16th term as a councilor. Theroux rejoins the council after a long hiatus during which he served as town clerk for 33 years. He is looking forward to being a part of the legislative body. He said the moment of being sworn in meant a lot.

"When I was 19, I had my girlfriend in the audience to see me," said Theroux. "Now, 43 years later, that same woman, my wife, was here today to see me get sworn in again."



Mayor Richard Cohen is sworn in by Judge Mary Hurley. His brother, Alan, holds the Bible. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Mayor Richard Cohen gives his inaugural address.



Members of the Agawam City Council are sworn in. Shown are councilors George Bitzas, Paul Cavallo, James Cichetti, Christopher Johnson, Joseph Mineo, Donald Rheault, Robert Rossi, Anthony Suffriti and Richard Theroux.



The members of the School Committee are sworn in. Shown are Roberta Doering, Shelley Borgatti-Reed, Wendy Rua, Carmino Mineo, and Anthony Bonavita.

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Opinion

OUR VIEW

Help is available

No one wakes up saying, “I think I’ll try heroin today.” No one.

Much of our attention in the aftermath of the four heroin deaths this month in Chicopee has been on the drug dealers arrested. But for the victims — including the vast majority of heroin addicts for whom the drug simply ruins their life, rather than taking it — our response should be rehabilitative and compassionate.

Addiction to heroin is something that happens — usually — gradually, over time. Whether it has spawned from recreational usage or a physical accident of some sort, once an individual has developed a liking to pills, past their prescribed usage, it becomes a problem. And the problem with that problem is that by the time an individual reaches that point, stopping isn’t an easy option. In fact, the option becomes something that many forget that they have.

If anyone starts to notice something that might indicate a person has a drug problem, or if they know someone who is using heroin, seek help. Valuable resources can be found on the Stop Addiction page of the mass.gov website or by calling 1-800-327-5050.

Under the Good Samaritan Law, individuals suffering from an overdose — or who are in the presence of someone who is — will not be prosecuted should they call 9-1-1 for immediate assistance. And when a dangerous situation like that presents itself, every second counts. Don’t be afraid to call.

Moreover, for those who know someone that struggles with this epidemic and may have “given up” on them, don’t. They can’t help themselves. As friends, as parents, neighbors, and even as strangers, keep having those conversations. Would it make more sense to be afraid to say anything to someone who is using out of fear that either they’ll feel judged or you’ll offend them, or would you rather attend another unnecessary funeral?

What do you think? Send your letter to the editor to aan@turley.com.

School Committee Meeting

Roberta G. Doering School
68 Main Street
Tuesday, Jan. 12 – 7 p.m.

1. Call to order
2. Moment of silence
3. Roll call of attendance
4. Regular meeting — 7 p.m.
5. Organization of School Committee
 - a. Election of officers
 6. Citizen’s speak time
 7. Highlights on Education
 - a. AJHS Brass Band performance
 8. Superintendent’s Notes
 9. Student Advisory Committee representative update
 10. Unfinished business: None
 11. Business meeting:
 - a. Routine matters
 - 1) Approval of minutes
 - 2) Calendar/Correspondence
 - b. Warrants/Transfers
 - c. Reports:
 - 1). Scheduled reports:
 - AHS program of studies — S. Lemanski
 - 2). Subcommittee updates
 12. New business:
 - a. SCR-16-01, Approval of the 2016-2017 AHS Program of Studies
 13. Any other items that may legally come before the committee
 14. Adjournment

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Letter to the Editor

Library closing ‘no way to run a railroad’

The Agawam Public Library posted its holiday hours days in advance. The posted hours for Dec. 31 were 9 to 5 instead of the usual Thursday closing time of 9 p.m. On Wednesday, Dec. 30, I left the library just before it closed at 9 p.m. and checked the posting affixed to the glass entry doors to make sure that the library was still planning to be open until 5 p.m. the next day (Dec. 31). It hadn’t changed.

The day before New Year’s I had a few important appointments to keep before I was able to get to the library, but I knew that I could still make it well before the special closing time of 5 p.m. I arrived at the library around 3 p.m. and was surprised to see that a new closing time of 2 p.m. had been posted. I’ve since learned that the mayor’s office decided late that morning to allow the library and other town offices to

close at 2 p.m.

I understand that several people went to the library after 2 p.m. expecting it to be open since the announced closing time for the 31st was already reduced from the usual 9 p.m. to 5 p.m. Residents of our town should be able to rely on the announced closing times of town facilities. I’m sure that town employees were delighted to be let go early, but residents and other patrons weren’t considered at all. This is “no way to run a railroad.” For those of you too young to have heard that expression, it’s defined as “a phrase used to express one’s discontent with the lack of organization by the administrators of a project or venture.”

Mike Marieb
Feeding Hills

YESTERDAY’S HOMETOWN NEWS

Why Brownie?

More than once in the last year, readers have called inquiring about the origin of the term “Brownie” for Agawam High School’s athletics teams. Every time, I responded that the uniforms were brown, so just like the Greenfield teams were called Greenies, Agawam teams were called Brownies.

Just before Christmas I found a Fuzzy Wuzzy Picture Storybook titled “Santa Claus.” I opened it to see the pictures and to check the condition of the inside. The first page showed three of Santa’s helpers working on presents. You know, big ears, skinny legs and heads almost the size of their bodies. Looking down at the print I expected to see the word elves. It wasn’t there. Here is the sentence that shocked me: “Every single Brownie was busy doing something to get Santa Claus ready for his long trip home that night.”

On the next page, the first sentence started with, “Some of the Brownies. ...” My next thought was to look at the copyright date. It was 1947. Was this storybook old enough to have anything to do with our Agawam use of the term Brownie? How can I find out?

My next call, as you should be able to guess, was to Judge William Walsh. Sure, he just turned 96 on Nov. 20, but he still has a great memory. Better than most people half his age. Okay, Judge Walsh, were the high school athletes called Brownies when you were in high school?

Now, Judge Walsh graduated in 1937, so that would cover the first 14 or so years of AHS, right? The answer was no. I then asked him if he remembered the first use of the term Brownies. His answer may surprise

you and is probably the correct theory for the origination of the term. When Judge Walsh was barely a teenager, he played sandlot baseball for Brown’s Store, which was on Springfield Street, not far up from our police station. Mr. Brown called his team the Brownies. Fran Rosso played for the team, too, and ended up making it to the majors. A young girl named Maggie Arnold played on the Brownies and helped them win a tournament, for which they won a trip to Yankee Stadium.

Mr. Walsh said that the tournaments back then were organized by Edward Boland. Yes, the con-



Walt Willard



A page from the 1947 children’s book “Santa Claus” shows his elves labeled as Brownies. SUBMITTED PHOTO



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Majestic stages a mystery

WEST SPRINGFIELD — “An Inspector Calls” is the next production in the 19th season of plays at West Springfield’s Majestic Theater. The mystery tells the tale of the Birlings, a prosperous, middle-class family. Arthur Birling, a wealthy mill owner and local politician, and his family have just finished a celebratory dinner in their comfortable home in Brumley, England. The happy occasion is that their daughter, Sheila, has just become engaged to Gerald Croft, the son of her father’s chief competitor. But then a mysterious stranger arrives, announcing himself a police inspector — Inspector Goole — and begins to interrogate them all about their possible responsibility in the death of a young working-class factory girl. The result of his questioning leads

each person to believe they’ve in part contributed to her death — but is Inspector Goole truly who he claims to be? The play runs Jan. 7 through Feb. 14.

Tickets for the play range from \$25 to \$30 and are available by calling or visiting the box office during its hours of operation, which are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Theater Project is a non-profit company that Eaton founded in 1991. Since March 1997 it has been in residence in West Springfield’s historic Majestic Theater, a century-old venue that was recently named “Best Place to See Theater” and “Best Live Theatre Company” in newspaper polls. It is at 131 Elm St., West Springfield.



Walter Mantani of Agawam, left, and J.T. Waite of New York are shown in a scene from the mystery “An Inspector Calls,” this month at West Springfield’s Majestic Theater. SUBMITTED PHOTO

DEATH NOTICES

- Frasco, Robert J.**
Died Dec. 26
Funeral Dec. 31
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam
- Lech, Stanley**
Died Dec. 27
Funeral Jan. 4
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam
- Marmo, James C.**
Died Jan. 1
Funeral Jan. 9
Curran-Jones Funeral Home Agawam
- Pfau, Barbara B.**
Died Dec. 31
Funeral Jan. 6
Agawam Funeral Home
- Thomas, Phyllis E.**
Died Dec. 29
Funeral Jan. 5
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam

My favorite perennials and why

As I sat at the computer to write this column I was at a loss for words. Gardening, quite honestly, has not even crossed my mind over the last week. Lot of other “stuff” has taken precedence. One daughter is getting better while the other one is getting sick. My normally healthy-as-a-horse husband is eight days into a bad case of whatever this is. I am clinging to hope that the new drugs I began four days ago will be my ticket out of a year and a half long battle with Lyme disease. And believe me, that is just the start of what promises to be a challenging yet exciting 2016.

Because I have not yet perused any seed catalogs or read the latest trade publications highlighting the newest, best and brightest plants for the upcoming gardening season, I figure it is best to write what I know. How about an article that features some of my favorite perennials? If I hedge my bets correctly I am guessing that a few of my choices will likely be yours as well.

Perennial candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*) is an old fashioned perennial that was always part of my mother’s rock garden when I was growing up. Its thumb-thick white racemes bloomed alongside late-flowering bulbs, ground phlox, violets and bleeding heart in

mid to late spring. I am not exactly sure what gave it “favorite” status; perhaps the fact that it is delicate and white but sturdy too. Candytuft requires good drainage, but will stop flowering if kept too dry. It should be pruned immediately after blooming to keep the plant from getting lanky and sparse in the middle. Once established, perennial candytuft does not like to be moved. It can be propagated by cuttings in late summer. In cold climates such as ours, a winter mulch of conifer boughs will help prevent browning.

Fast-forward a month into the calendar and we find Mountain bluet, or perennial bachelor button, as it is sometimes called, blooming its heart out. This plant inhabited one of my very first gardens - a circular garden that I made at sixteen where our above-ground pool used to be. There is nothing rare about *Centaurea montana*, or even all that unique about it. And while most gardeners don’t give it a second glance, I just love its oversized cornflowers and their true royal blue shade. At eighteen inches tall it is best suited to the middle row

of the garden. Plant in full sun or slight shade for best results. If you cut it back after it is done flowering you just may have a chance for late season re-bloom.

In July, all eyes will be on bee balm. Its stunning bright red flowers are loved by hummingbirds as well as gardeners, but surprisingly, not by bees! Bergamot, as it is often called, is a member of the genus *Monarda*. *Monarda didyma* is the striking red form that I mentioned above. What we would consider to be the flower parts of the plant are actually bracts, or modified leaves. These form whorls upon which small

tubular flowers spring forth. Hummingbirds love this type of flower and will visit the plant over and over again while in bloom to drink its nectar. Bees, on the other hand have a hard time reaching the nectar because it is hidden so far within the flower. I’m curious why then it got the name it did! Bee balm is a member of the mint family. Like a good number of its relatives, bee balm has a hard time staying confined. It will “run” no matter where you plant it. Innovative gardeners

often sink bee balm in bottomless pots or within the confines of landscape edging. I am considering moving my immense plant out of the garden patch to a location where it can roam freely, perhaps up against the edge of the woods. It should do just fine in this moist, partly sunny spot. One complaint gardeners have about this species of bee balm is that it can be prone to powdery mildew. A cultivar by the name of “Jacob Kline” is reportedly resistant to the condition; after a half dozen years my plants are still disease-free.

Perhaps by next week sickness will be behind us and I will have had the chance to peruse those catalogs and trade journals and share with you something new for the New Year! Let’s hope anyway!!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 25 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food, as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to dfarmer@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.



HOMETOWN ■ from page 4

gressman, but he did it when he was young and working for the Springfield Newspapers.

This column may or may not help you decide where the term Brownie comes from, but many of us hope that you won’t try to have the name changed. The first Brownies were not called that because they were pieces of cake out on the field.

Walt Willard went to AHS and taught math there for 16 years. He can be reached at 413-786-7924. Call him. Walt loves your feedback and any and all information or tidbits you can offer.

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Think you know your town? Take the 2015 news quiz

How well did you follow the news in 2015? For each of the questions below, the answer appeared somewhere in the pages of the Agawam Advertiser News sometime in the past year. If you think you've got a good handle on everything that happened in this town in the past year, take the quiz and send your answers to Agawam Advertiser News, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. You may also fax 413-786-8457, or email editor Michael Ballway at mballway@turley.com. Please send the answers on a separate piece of paper, typed or neatly printed, with your name and daytime telephone number (not for publication) at the top, and each question and answer denoted by number and letter only (e.g.: 1-A, 2-B, 3-A, 4-C, etc.). Those with the highest scores will be recognized in an upcoming edition of the Agawam Advertiser News. Entries must be received by Jan. 15.

1. For the third year in a row, the town's dog license tags were shaped and colored to match a theme. What was it?

- A. Basketballs, after the new YMCA in town.
- B. Purple Hearts, to honor the military.
- C. Graduation caps, to recognize schoolteachers.
- D. Silhouettes of Yoda, as yet another "Star Wars" movie tie-in.

2. Before reopening its Feeding Hills location in December, Partners Restaurant opened a West Springfield diner in April. What is it called?

- A. The Dish.
- B. The Table.
- C. The Cup.
- D. The Fork.

3. What was the name of the Agawam High School Drama Club's anti-bullying play performed for junior high students in late January?

- A. "Let's All Stand Up."
- B. "No, I Wouldn't Like a Wedgie."
- C. "You Can't Stuff My Spirit in a Locker."
- D. "Thank You for Flushing My Head in the Toilet."

4. EvvGirl Foundation, the Agawam organization that raises funds for children's causes in honor of Evan Bard, donated what items this year?

- A. Playground equipment at the Early Childhood Center.
- B. Three iPads for Agawam schools that Evan had attended.
- C. Chromebooks at Baystate Children's Hospital.
- D. Sports equipment at the Agawam YMCA.

5. Why was Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito in town on April 30?

- A. To listen to Agawam town officials about their needs from state government.
- B. To unveil environmental policies on the site of a townwide cleanup day.
- C. To officially dedicate the new Wicked Cyclone roller coaster at Six Flags.
- D. To announce her run for the Republican presidential nomination.

6. What was different about the Relay for Life last May?

- A. It was held at School Street Park for the first time.
- B. It was now a full 24-hour event, rather than 18 hours as in the past.
- C. It included a "Concert for the Cure" musical program.
- D. It was not held due to lack of interest.

7. A hike through Robinson State Park in May highlighted the work done by what 1930s federal agency?

- A. The WPA.
- B. The TVA.
- C. The CCC.
- D. The AAN.

8. Why did certain high schoolers visit EB's Restaurant on Thursday nights this year?

- A. To attend culinary workshops for aspiring restaurant chefs.
- B. To play in showcases for youth jazz musicians.
- C. To participate in weekly AP Calculus study sessions.
- D. To take advantage of a "get on honor roll, get free lobster roll" promotion.

9. Which of these groups announced it would fold in June of this year?

- A. West of the River Chamber of Commerce.
- B. Agawam Dog Owners Group.
- C. Agawam Small Business Assistance Center.
- D. Agawam St. Patrick's Day Committee.

10. Ten-year-olds Jordan Stack and Nick Uschmann did what in June to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project?

- A. Held a charity car wash at Phelps School.
- B. Held a magic show in Jordan's driveway.
- C. Sold hot dogs at AHS baseball games.
- D. Nothing — their popcorn fundraiser at School Street Park was in August.

11. Which school was named for Agawam's first school superintendent?

- A. Clifford Granger School.
- B. Benjamin Phelps School.
- C. James Clark School.
- D. Roberta Doering School.

12. What Agawam roadway was designated the "Purple Heart Trail" in July?

- A. Federal Street.
- B. The Route 57 expressway.
- C. Walnut Street Extension.
- D. Main Street.

13. What did Lighthouse Christian Church and St. David's Episcopal Church team up to do in August?

- A. Host an ecumenical worship service.
- B. Collect food for the Parish Cupboard.
- C. Distribute backpacks and school supplies.
- D. Hold a theological debate on the nature of grace.

14. According to 2013 statistics, what are the most dangerous intersections in town?

- A. Agawam Rotary, Springfield and North streets, Morgan-Sullivan Bridge.
- B. Feeding Hills Center, Suffield and Cooper streets, Springfield and North streets.
- C. Agawam Rotary, Feeding Hills Center, Morgan-Sullivan Bridge.
- D. Feeding Hills Center, Springfield and North streets, Main Street at Six Flags.

15. Why was Jake Lihan of Feeding Hills digging the dirt in Southwick in September?

- A. He was an archeology student studying Native American artifacts found there.
- B. He was helping build seasonal pools for an endangered toad.
- C. He was part of a volunteer group improving the town's rail trail.
- D. He was part of a construction crew working on the Route 57 extension.

16. Weekday traffic in Agawam ground to a halt on what Big E day?

- A. Opening Day, Friday, Sept. 18.
- B. Connecticut Day, Wednesday, Sept. 23.
- C. Massachusetts Day, Thursday, Sept. 24.
- D. Agawam Day, Wednesday, Sept. 30.

17. A state grant was announced in October to fund what school improvements?

- A. The gymnasium at Clark School.
- B. Sports fields at Doering School.
- C. Science labs at the high school.
- D. The auditorium at the junior high school.

18. Who was the top vote-getter among City Council candidates in the Nov. 3 town election?

- A. James Cichetti.
- B. Christopher Johnson.
- C. George Bitzas.
- D. William Clark.

19. Why did the town receive a \$96,195 state grant in December?

- A. To complete the bike trail on School Street.
- B. To expand the sewer system in Feeding Hills.
- C. To purchase wheeled trash and recycling totes.
- D. To buy "smart meters" for the Water Department.

20. What costumed group showed up for a special event in Agawam this year?

- A. Imperial Stormtroopers at the December premiere of "Star Wars" at Agawam Cinemas.
- B. Massachusetts Volunteers at a Civil War 150th anniversary re-enactment in Robinson State Park in April.
- C. Knights and damsels at "Renaissance Fair Day" in August at Six Flags.
- D. All of the above.

Compiled by Michael J. Ballway



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We're apples to oranges



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Adult Ed signups next week

Registration for the spring semester of the Agawam Adult Education Program will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 12 and 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Agawam High School Career Center connected to the counseling offices.

Late registration will be held up until the night of the first class meeting and during the first week of classes on Jan. 19 and 20 from 5 to 6 p.m., in the Agawam High School Counseling Center. Late registration cost is an additional \$10 per class. Students registering during the first week must attend the first night of class.

Classes begin Tuesday and Wednesday,

Jan. 19 and 20, ending on or about April 12 and 13. Classes begin at 6 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. Classes to be offered include biology, physical science and four levels of English on Tuesdays; and algebra I and II, geometry, U.S. and world history on Wednesdays.

Those persons interested in working toward an Agawam Evening High School diploma or certificate of attainment must call ahead of time to schedule an appointment with Shawn Tatro to enroll.

For more information, contact Shawn Tatro, director, at 413-726-1276 or 413-726-1647, or statro@agawampublicschools.org.



Last October, Agawam school nurses picketed in front of Town Hall to bring attention to their two-year contract dispute. SUBMITTED PHOTO

NURSES ■ from page 1

award and the town’s proposal to its membership for a vote,” said Cohen, who did not say when councilors will vote.

Union: Still no parity

Mary Pasteris, head of the Agawam union and a nurse at the high school, said nurses will meet with their representative to the statewide association Jan.12. While the nurses haven’t voted on the town’s offer, she said the union plans to refuse the fact-finder’s recommendation.

“It doesn’t address any attempt for parity and prevents us from attempting to gain parity until 2018,” she said.

She added that although the town’s offer looks good on paper, the actual dollar amount could set nurses back further.

“We’re being denied retroactive pay for the time we lost. A dramatic increase is necessary for us. We need at least 15 percent over the past two years and the current year [2012-2015] to bring us halfway to parity, with complete parity in 2015-2018.”

Pasteris said the “wide disparity” between lower salaries for Agawam nurses and higher salaries in surrounding districts is causing difficulty in “attracting and retaining” professional school nurses. She added that since September 2012, the town has paid \$106,613 for substitute nurses — predominantly due to the loss of full-time and part-time nurses.

During the past six years, 15 school nurses — seven full-timers, three permanent part-timers, and five regular substitutes — have resigned due to the “inequality” of Agawam’s pay scale. Pasteris said all left for higher-paying school nurse positions within Hampden County.

Pasteris said lower wages also have left a vacancy for the permanent part-timer position required by the nurses’ contract. She said Agawam now has “an environment” that encourages using substitute nurses who aren’t familiar with practices necessary to ensure the “safety and welfare” of students during the school day.

Union concerns

After reviewing the award, Pasteris said the union has several concerns with the report, such as changing the job description of school nurses, who are only paid for the 183 days of the school year, to public nurses. She said the change is significant.

“Our job description and union contract calls us school nurses. Public health nurses get vacation pay and holiday pay; school nurses don’t,” she said.

The nurses had asked to be employed by the School Department or that their salaries should at least be closer to what Agawam teachers are paid. Pasteris said Agawam nurses perform the “the exact same duties” as nurses in other school districts and deserve comparable wages.

Agawam nurses aren’t required to have the same educational degrees as teachers or be certified by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, but half currently have a bachelor’s or master’s degree.

“Not requiring DESE certification for school nurses prevents us from attaining a fair and decent salary,” said Pasteris.

She added that the town has used Westfield and Ludlow — which require school nurses to have DESE certification — for comparison, since they are similar to Agawam in grade spans, total student enrollment and special populations. Salaries in those two communities, however, are much higher.

The salary for school nurses in Westfield is \$58,000 after 13 years; Ludlow nurses receive \$61,200 after 12 years. The maximum salary for Agawam nurses is \$43,789 after 20 years.

The school nurse leader’s salary shows a similar disparity. In Westfield, the salary is \$72,000 after one year. In Ludlow, it’s \$64,000 after five years. In Agawam: \$47,803 after 20 years.

Pasteris said while the districts have similar starting salaries, the disparity in Agawam grows “exponentially” each year. “This problem didn’t just start — it’s been developing quietly over the past 10 or more years.”

Public Safety

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 302 calls for service from Dec. 28 to Jan. 4. The department recorded five arrests in its public log. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Monday, Dec. 28

Vincent Veino, 31, of 205 Safron St., Springfield, was arrested on two warrants.

Wednesday, Dec. 30

Mark Lemieux, 47, no residential address, was arrested on a charge of trespassing.

Friday, Jan. 1

Kyle Patrick Farrelly, 25, of 20 Stillbrook Lane, Apt. C, Feeding Hills, was arrested on charges of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and use of a motor vehicle without authority, second offense.

Sunday, Jan. 3

A juvenile from Springfield was arrested on a warrant for failure to appear.

Keely M. Smith, 56, of 42 Emerson Road, Agawam, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of liquor, and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 68 EMS calls from Dec. 29 to Jan. 4, and the following emergency response calls.

On Dec. 30 at 9:19 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

On Dec. 30 at 12:23 p.m., the department responded to Autumn Street for gas leak (natural gas or LPG).

On Dec. 30 at 12:48 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for detector activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Dec. 31 at 10:51 p.m., the department responded to Moore Street for smoke scare, odor of smoke.

On Jan. 1 at 12:36 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

On Jan. 1 at 11:47 p.m., the department responded to Rowley Street for overpressure rupture of steam pipe or pipeline.

On Jan. 2 at 8:44 p.m., the department responded to Redwood Drive for good intent call, other.

On Jan. 3 at 4:53 p.m., the department responded to N. Westfield Street for person in distress, other.

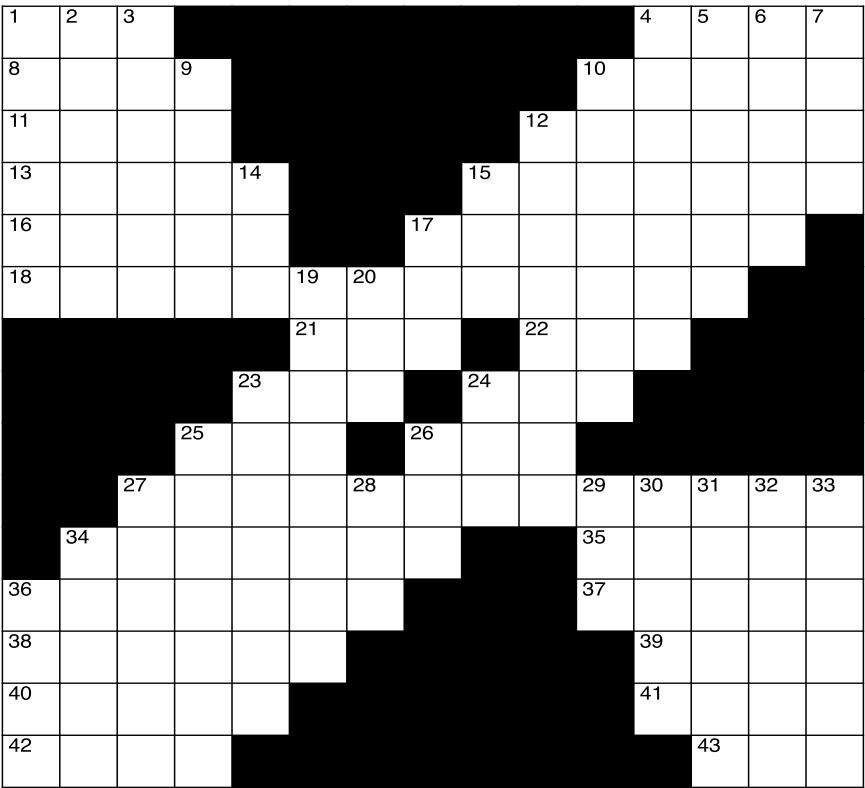
On Jan. 4 at 7:37 p.m., the department responded to Regency Park Drive for citizen complaint.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Engine additive
- 4. Soluble
- 8. Subdue
- 10. One long, three short
- 11. Morally bad
- 12. With collapsible shelter
- 13. Central church parts
- 15. Summer shoes
- 16. Intestinal
- 17. Transgressors
- 18. Meeting expectations
- 21. Clutch
- 22. Autonomic nervous system
- 23. What you can repeat immediately
- 24. Favorite summer sandwich
- 25. An accountant certified by the state
- 26. Cologne
- 27. Norma Jean Baker
- 34. Galaxies
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Detected
- 37. Having 3 dimensions
- 38. Made level
- 39. The destroyer (Hindu)
- 40. Uncovered
- 41. Ooze slowly
- 42. Aerie
- 43. Point midway

after perceiving it

between S and SE

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Having beautiful natural views
- 2. Fanafuti is the capital
- 3. Shrub used for hedges
- 4. Polishing tools
- 5. Slow down
- 6. Christmas carols
- 7. & & &
- 9. Sound of sheep or goat
- 10. A long flag, often tapering
- 12. Atomic #73
- 14. Schilling (abbr.)
- 15. Female sibling
- 17. Long sandwich
- 19. In a way,
- 20. Mayan people of SW Guatemala
- 23. Cleaned up
- 24. Prohibit
- 25. Upright cupboard
- 26. Cyclone center
- 27. Metric linear units
- 28. Young male
- 29. Securities market
- 30. City across from Dusseldorf
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Mount of ___ east of Jerusalem
- 33. Get free
- 34. Variable stars
- 36. One point N of NE

Answers on page 9

TRUE LOCAL NEWS

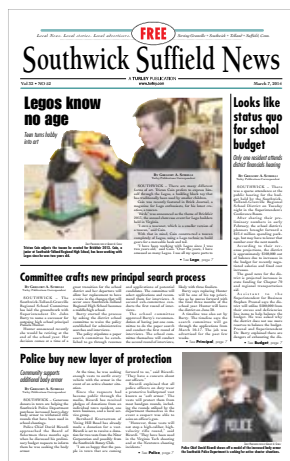
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Built on everything local – stories, community events, sports, people, places and local advertisers – Turley Publications, Inc. celebrates publishing community newspapers in the Pioneer Valley. We know first hand the value of true local news. With 15 weekly newspapers, serving 50 local communities, we keep our

readers informed, educated and entertained each week. Turley is also an integral part of each business community – publishing local press releases, covering the events that matter and featuring local businesses on our pages in every issue. We continue to offer a value other media can't – *we're truly local all the time.*



Now in its seventh year of publication – *Living Spaces* continues to showcase exceptional interior and exterior design projects of homeowners throughout Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut. It's the only local publication of its kind. Visit livingspacesmagazine.com to view the latest edition.

LIVING SPACES IS A TURLEY PUBLICATION.



Painting with fibers topic of Tobacco Valley Artists presentation

The Tobacco Valley Artists Association will hold its monthly meeting and art demonstration at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20, at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. Featured artist Diane Caswell Christian will demonstrate the use of fibers in creating a landscape painting.

“Serendipity brought felt-making into my life at a time when I needed to reconnect with the past and find a way to express my artistic side beyond the exacting dictionary illustration work I was doing at the time,” said Christian when describing the unique qualities of her art. “The softness of the fibers, the feel of the soapy water, the magic

moment when the loose fibers become felt appealed to my unfulfilled need to use my fingers to manipulate the medium. It often feels as though I am just a facilitator for the art, as though the pieces have their own need to be created.

“There is a kind of conversation that flows from my mind and through my fingers into the wool and back again, and during this exchange, the questioning mind quiets. The landscapes reflect this sense of peace, creating worlds that invite the viewer to enter and rest in solitude. Through the light and shade, the flowing organic lines, and the play of the varying colors, the rush

and rigidity of daily life falls away.”

Christian uses the medium of felted wool and other fibers to depict landscapes that have depth and movement. She studied photography at Endicott College and studio art at Smith College and has worked as an illustrator. She began felt-making in 2006, and started teaching felt landscape classes in the Northeast in 2009. She also taught at the Midwest Felting Symposium in Madison, Wis., in 2014, and taught at the Felters’ Rendezvous in Estes Park, Colo., in March 2015.

She is a current member of the Northeast Feltmakers Guild and Tobacco Valley

Artists Association. Her felt landscapes have appeared in several juried art shows and have become part of private collections in the Northeast. She is the 2010 recipient of the Granby Land Trust Award for her felt landscape entry into their annual juried art show.

Tobacco Valley Artists Association is comprised of members throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts. Regular meetings and artist demonstrations are held on the third Wednesday of the month at the time and location above. The public is welcome.

Legals

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF AGAWAM
PLANNING BOARD

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 6:30 PM** in the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of the Agawam Town Council on a proposed Zoning Amendment entitled “Non-Conforming Uses.” A copy of the proposal can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM in the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

BY ORDER OF:
Mark R. Paleologopoulos,
Chairman
Agawam Planning Board
1/7,1/14/16

AGAWAM
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 6:00 PM** at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Anderson for property located at 47 Mill Street.

By Order of **Henry A. Kozloski**, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
1/7/16

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD13P0677PM

In the matter of:
Bruce H Lucier
Of: Agawam, MA
Protected Person/
Disabled Person/
Respondent
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF
CONSERVATOR’S
ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the First and Second account(s) of **Alison Bartlett-O’Donald** of Holyoke, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 01/26/2016. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 29, 2015
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
1/7/16

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD15P2279EA

Estate of:
James A Davignon
Date of Death:
October 28, 2015
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Deborah A Davignon** of Agawam MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Deborah A Davignon of Agawam MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribu-

tion of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
1/7/16

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD15P2474EA

Estate of:
Rowena Anne Lyons
Date of Death: 11/01/2015
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michael R Lyons** of Feeding Hills MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Michael R Lyons** of Feeding Hills MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/20/2016.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceed-

ing. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 23, 2015
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
1/7/16

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD15C0213CA

In the matter of:
Melissa Poirier
Of: Agawam, MA
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR CHANGE OF NAME

To all persons interested in petition described:
A petition has been pre-

sented by **Melissa Poirier** requesting that: **Melissa Poirier** be allowed to change his/her/their name as follows:
Melissa Morvidelli

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at: Springfield on or before ten o’clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on: 01/21/2016

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 24, 2015
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
1/7/16

AGAWAM
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 6:15 PM** at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the petition of VIP Homes for an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation for property located on Rowley Street.

By Order of **Henry A. Kozloski**, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
1/7/16

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Agawam Advertiser

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PUBLIC AUCTION
Foreclosure Auction on Premises
Worthington, MA
Tuesday, Jan 12 @ 12 PM



138 Witt Hill Rd. 2 BR, 1 BA ranch,
1,434+/-sf attached 2 car garage, 2.0+/- ac
*Terms: \$10,000 deposit by cash, bank check or
certified check. Balance due 30 days.*
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Youth

Red Door opens 25th season this weekend

The Red Door Theatre, now celebrating its 25th season, opens 2016 with a Tiny Tales production of “Popper’s Penguins” scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 9, at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. This audience-participatory play for children aged 3-10 provides children an opportunity to go on stage with the theater’s veteran actors. Dressed in costume, they help tell the story of a penguin family that comes to live with a small town family and causes more problems than expected. Members of the audience are also in-

vited to participate from their seats, giving everyone a chance to act up as they act out. Tickets are \$6. Reservations are strongly suggested at 413-789-2026. The theater is also taking registrations for its after-school theater camp, “The Magician’s Nephew,” a dramatization by Aurand Harris of C.S. Lewis’ “Narnia” story. The camp is geared for ages 8 to 15 and culminates in a full production Feb. 26 to 28. For more information or to register online, visit www.reddoortheatre.com.

School Lunch

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

- Monday, Jan. 11:** Chicken nuggets with sauce, rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.
- Tuesday, Jan. 12:** Ham and turkey grinder, low-fat Cape Cod Chips, baby carrots with ranch, fresh and chilled fruit.
- Wednesday, Jan. 13:** Chicken filet wrap with assorted sauce, lettuce, tomato and cheese, side of pasta salad, fresh and chilled fruit.
- Thursday, Jan. 14:** Fresh assorted calzones, garden salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit.
- Friday, Jan. 15:** Loaded beef nachos (seasoned ground beef with cheese, choice of toppings) seasoned corn, fresh and chilled fruit.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- Monday, Jan. 11:** Baked mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, baked fries, seasoned vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.
- Tuesday, Jan. 12:** Baked chicken patty sandwich, lettuce and tomato, potato wedges, fresh and chilled fruit.
- Wednesday, Jan. 13:** Ziti with meat sauce, garlic knot, seasoned corn, fresh and chilled fruit.
- Thursday, Jan. 14:** Steak and cheese sub, baked fries, celery sticks with ranch, cookies, chilled fruit.
- Friday, Jan. 15:** French bread pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- Monday, Jan. 11:** Baked mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, baked fries, seasoned vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.
- Tuesday, Jan. 12:** Baked chicken patty sandwich, lettuce and tomato, potato wedges, fresh and chilled fruit.
- Wednesday, Jan. 13:** Ziti with meat sauce, garlic knot, seasoned corn, fresh and chilled fruit.
- Thursday, Jan. 14:** Crispy fish nuggets with tartar sauce, smile milk, celery sticks with ranch, cookies, chilled fruit.
- Friday, Jan. 15:** French bread pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST MENU ELEMENTARY BREAKFAST MENU

- Monday, Jan. 11:** Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, cinnamon graham crackers, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
- Tuesday, Jan. 12:** Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted nutri-grain bars, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
- Wednesday, Jan. 13:** Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted muffins, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
- Thursday, Jan. 14:** Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted Trix yogurt, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
- Friday, Jan. 15:** Pillsbury mini pancakes with syrup for dipping, mozzarella cheese string, 1 percent low-fat milk, juice.

Parent-child date nights open to area families

The Agawam Family and Community Program is providing an opportunity for parents to experience a night out with one of their children age 5 to 10 with the following theme nights and a special night with dad.

- Thursday, Jan. 28, or Tuesday, Feb. 2: “Explore Life Under the Sea.”
- Thursday, Feb. 11, or Tuesday, March 1: “Explore Dinosaurs.”
- Thursday, March 17, or Tuesday, April 5: “Explore Space.”
- Thursday, March 31: Dad’s Science

Night with “Volcanos & Ooblek.” All events will take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Children’s Activity Room at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. Registration is required for each program by emailing Michelle Connery at mconnery@agawampublicschools.org or by calling 413-821-0597. Parents are asked to come with only one child at a time. Each event is limited to a maximum number of 20 parent-child groups.

St. Thomas to hold open house Jan. 31

WEST SPRINGFIELD — St. Thomas the Apostle School will host its annual open house for prospective families interested in the 2016-17 preschool and kindergarten program. Staff and faculty will be available to meet families from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, at 47 Pine St., West Springfield. Parents interested in registering their child must provide a copy of the child’s birth certificate and baptismal certificate, if applicable. A non-refundable \$100 registration fee is required at this time, which will be applied to the child’s tuition. Children must be 2.9 years of age by Sept. 1 for the three-year-old program, 4 years of age

by Sept. 1 for the four-year-old program and 5 years of age by Sept. 1 for the kindergarten program. New families with children in all other grades are welcome to come for a tour and to register at this time. A copy of the child’s latest report card and standardized test scores or MCAS scores must be brought in at this time, and will be retained by the school. After-school extended care for preschool through grade 8 is available throughout the school year. For more information, call the school at 413-739-4131.

Teen book clubs, advisory board to meet

The Agawam Public Library has announced the following new teen programs beginning in January. Registration is not required for any of the programs. A Book to Movie Club for students in grades 6 through 8 will begin with a showing of “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” at 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11. A meeting to discuss the book will take place at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11. A High School Book Club for students in grades 9 through 12 will take place from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19. Students are invited to join in a discussion of “The Fault in our Stars” by John Green. Copies of the book will be available for checkout in

the Children’s Room. A meeting of the Teen Advisory Board for students in grades 9 through 12 will take place from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20. A Dream Team Meeting for students in grades 6 through 8 will take place Thursday, Jan. 21, from 4 to 5 p.m. Students are invited to attend and help decide what books and movies the library should buy and what activities to do. To receive emails on upcoming teen programs, call Pamela at 413-789-1550, ext. 3. For more information, visit www.agawamlibrary.org. The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.



The AWE Early Literacy Station is now available to children aged 2-8 at the Agawam Public Library. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Library adds early literacy computer station

The Agawam Public Library has announced the acquisition of an AWE Early Literacy Station, a comprehensive, turnkey educational solution with over 70 educational software programs for kids aged 2-8. The AWE Early Literacy Station offers children a safe, standalone computer not connected to the Internet that is age-appropriate, engaging and academically relevant for children. It is designed to support school readiness and early education while making learning exciting and engaging. It has a colorful keyboard and tiny mouse to promote easy learning and self-discovery. The early learning applications on the Early Literacy Station span every curriculum area: reading, language arts, math, science, STEM, social studies, writing, graphic

arts, typing, music and more. The content is correlated to Common Core standards. It also features a host of administrative controls including timed sessions and usage tracking. The Early Literacy Station has an imaginative interface that encourages exploration by readers and pre-readers alike. Since it is a self-contained computer, the need for adult intervention and technical support is greatly minimized. Parents are invited to the children’s room at the library to discover what the computer has in store for them and their child. For more information, call 413-789-1550, ext. 3, or visit www.agawamlibrary.org.

Agawam High School Counseling bulletin

College acceptances

Daigan Bishop — United States Navy; Laura Cafaro — Westfield State University; Alec Ferrendino — Western New England University; Daphne Gauthier — Salve Regina University; Alexa Janicki — Holyoke Community College; Robert Johnston — University of Massachusetts Amherst; Riley Pearson — Fairfield University, Quinnipiac University; Gianna Perella — Assumption College, Fitchburg State University, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; Robert Morris University, Westfield State University, Nicholas Sampson — Fitchburg State University, Worcester State University; Nicholas Scuderi — Emmanuel College, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Special interest programs

FAFSA Day 2016 is a non-profit, volunteer-driven program providing free assistance to students seeking to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. For anyone attending college in the fall of 2016, this is an opportunity not to miss. The event will be offered at Springfield Technical Community College on Jan. 31 at 1 p.m., Holyoke Community College on Feb. 21 at 1 p.m., and Amherst-Pelham Regional High School on Jan. 28. Families can learn more and register at <http://fafsaday.org>. Jr. Tech Inc., a Massachusetts-based non-profit that has delivered experiential STEM education programs in Massachusetts for the past 10 years, is offering Girls STEM Summit on Sunday, April 10, at Regis College in Weston. The focus is on girls in grades 8-12 who are interested in or curious about careers in the STEM fields. The registration fee is \$55 per student and includes all speakers, hands-on sessions, lunch and snacks, giveaways and a take home gift. Call 617-512-1794 with any questions.

Springfield Technical Community College is again offering the chance for current juniors and seniors to take up to one free course in the spring and summer semesters through the College Now program. This is a great way to earn college credits while in high school while trying courses that may be helpful in exploring a potential career interest. See your counselor for details. Elms College is offering an Advanced Placement program which allows eligible students to enroll in one

three-credit course in the spring semester and receive full college transfer credit to the Elms or another academic institution of their choice. While tuition is waived, students will pay a \$20 registration fee and \$50 technology fee. Registration for the spring semester is Jan. 20. Those interested should see their counselor for more information. The railroad industry is thriving and railroad companies are looking for qualified workers to fill a variety of positions. The Railroad Engineering Technology Associate Degree program at Gateway Community College (New Haven, Conn.) prepares students for such careers. Contact Rick Halkyard at 203-285-2311 for more information.

Scholarship information

Students should see their counselor or visit the websites for more information or an application: the Walter S. Barr Scholarship; the Hood Milk Scholarship; the Red Pine Scholarship; the Yawkey Scholars Program; the Charitable and Educational Trust of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts; the Phillips Scholarship Fund; the Michael Yaskick ADHD Scholarships by Shire; Big Y Scholarship; John F. Kennedy Library Foundation; Skidmore College; Westfield-West Springfield Elks Lodge 1481; Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps; Abbott & Fenner Business Consultants; Ronald McDonald House Charities; Jack Kent Cooke Foundation; American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program; GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program; Henry David Thoreau Foundation; Aspiring Fashion Professional Scholarship; Aspiring Animation Professional Scholarship; Horace Smith Fund; Aspiring Nurse Scholarship; Holyoke Credit Union Scholarship Program; Edward P. Boland Scholarship. Meritaid.com: On this free website, students can complete a profile and then access the college merit scholarships that match their profile. This organization does not sell its email lists to third parties. The site includes a comprehensive directory of merit scholarships and academic scholarships across the country. Did You Know: There are 60 women’s colleges in 24 U.S. states. The state with the most women’s colleges is Massachusetts. Pennsylvania comes in second with seven.

Painting event to benefit Colleen float

The Agawam St. Patrick’s Committee is hosting a Paint Social Art event Sunday, Jan. 10, at the American Legion Post, 478 Springfield St., Agawam starting at 2 p.m. Paint Social Art mixes cocktails and creativity into a fun night out with friends.

Participants will paint on wine glasses with proceeds to benefit the Colleen float. The cost is \$35 per person. For reservations and information, contact Diane Pirnie at 413-786-9341 or register online at www.paintsocialart.com.

COUNCIL ■ from page 1

ident of the council. Like Cichetti, it is Mineo's first time in a leadership role on the main council.

Both recognize there will be a learning curve as they adjust to running meetings and being responsible for keeping the council moving forward.

Each said a big focus will be on improving the relationship between the council and re-elected Mayor Richard Cohen, and his administration.

"The relationship has been strained in the past few years," said Mineo. "I have a pretty good relationship with Mayor Cohen. I don't agree with him on everything, but I am happy to work with him."

Cichetti said the relationship with the mayor will be important in his tenure to try and get things done.

"We have to be able to work with the administration," said Cichetti. "I'm going to try and work with the mayor and bring the council together as a unit. It's definitely going to be hard work."

Cichetti said he wants to bring back meetings with the mayor to go over and discuss agenda items. He said he will try to do that the Friday before council meetings are scheduled.

The new president said he wants to continue work he was doing while running the Legislative Subcommittee. He wants to see the council do reform on many outdated rules and regulations in the town code. Among them is the resolution originally passed in 1994 governing the Municipal Golf Course.

"I am hoping to work with the mayor to update the resolution so it is current," said Cichetti. "We may look into tweaking the role of the Golf Commission and including some councilors on the commission."

Cichetti will have to replace members on the current Ad Hoc Golf Committee now that he is president and Perry is no longer on the council. Both were members of the committee.

He is hoping for expansion of budget discussions with the mayor.

"When we are going through the budget process, I want to sit down with the mayor and his budget team," said Cichetti. "I also think we should have quarterly meetings on the budget so we stay current what is happening."

Cichetti said his legislative meetings were what helped him prepare for this run as president of the council.

"I felt like I ran some good meetings and we got some things done," Cichetti. "I hope to do the same thing with the full council."

Mineo said as vice president, he will do his best to support Cichetti. After 16 years on the council, he felt now was a good time to take on a leadership role.

"I'm really excited for this opportunity and I appreciate the confidence of the rest of the council in voting me in as vice president," said Mineo. "I'm excited to work with Jimmy, we get along well and I think we will do a good job."

Johnson and Perry had formed the leadership tandem for the past four years. Johnson's tenure as council president stretches back even farther than that.

Councilor Gina Letellier nominated Johnson for president of the council, but Johnson declined, saying he could not meet the time commitment. Newly elected Councilor Richard Theroux nominated Mineo for vice president. There were no other nominees for vice president.

Cichetti and Mineo will run their first full meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 19, as the council resumes regular business.

The two said they will be sitting down together soon to give subcommittee assignments.

**James Cichetti****Joseph Mineo****Last day of clerk**

Beth Ceccarini, Judy Beauregard, Margaret McCarthy and Town Clerk Richard Theroux look on as Mayor Richard Cohen presents Theroux with a citation for his recent retirement. Theroux served as town clerk for more than three decades before leaving last week for job in the private sector. He will remain in town government as an elected city councilor. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tuesday, January 12th Workshop: The ABC's of Annuities 6-7pm, Creating Retirement Income for Life 7-8pm

This workshop will explain what an annuity is. We'll discuss the myths and truths about annuities. The different types of annuities will be reviewed, along with fees.

The last hour of the workshop we'll discuss how to create income for life. Have an annuity statement you'd like to know more about? Bring it with you.

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TEACHER ■ from page 1

That's when she decided to pursue a second career as a math teacher.

"I'm a logical thinker — I've always had an ease with math, especially as a student in high school and college," she said.

Knack for teaching

She also knew she had a knack for teaching, having directed some personnel training while with the NYPD, but she decided to focus on a much younger age group for her second career.

"As a newly retired cop, I had an edge that wouldn't have boded well for me as a high school teacher," she explained. "I chose to teach middle school math. Younger kids need a comfortable, safe environment to struggle with and find success with math — which is what I try to create in my classroom."

Another factor in her new career choice was her daughter — just 12 when Maisonave retired.

"Her dad had recently passed away and I wanted to be on her schedule for once and more available for her," Maisonave said.

A native New Yorker, she and her daughter moved to Chicopee so Maisonave could be closer to her mother and her younger siblings, who had relocated to Western Massachusetts several years earlier. Using two years of college credits from a police science program at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, she enrolled in classes at UMass Amherst.

Maisonave graduated in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in education. She received her master's degree to teach grades 1-8 math at Lesley University in Cambridge after she took classes for three years in satellite locations in Holyoke and Springfield.

Her education career began when was hired for a paraprofessional position in Holyoke. She became a teacher and stayed there until the state takeover of the district last year.

"I'm Hispanic and I had a comfort with the language and culture," she said. "I left Holyoke because it was time for me to move on. Things radically changed after the state took over."

Seeking a new challenge, she applied for the position at Doering. The school's principal, Sue Federico, said Maisonave's experience as an NYPD detective indicated she was an experienced professional with people skills.

"We don't often have career law enforcement officers apply for teaching jobs, so I feel fortunate to have attracted Debbie to our school," Federico said.

Motivated professional

Federico calls Maisonave a highly motivated professional who is very "positive, warm, and direct in her thinking. ... Debbie has a strong work ethic. She puts a lot of time into working with her students and planning her lessons. She takes a great deal of pride in her students' accomplishments."

She added that Maisonave recognizes that students learn math concepts in different ways, so she teaches math several ways to help them solve problems.

"Police officers and teachers are alike in that they like to help others," said Federico. "Debbie obviously gets a lot of satisfaction helping students and families. Hiring Debbie has proven to be a wise decision."

Maisonave, one of only four math teachers at the school, teaches grade 5 intensive math. It's like a regular math class, but with a smaller class size so she can provide concentrated support to students.

"I love just teaching math," she said "My students are on the low end of the academic scale in math and it's a great challenge to teach them strategies that make math approachable so they can find success."

'A million shades'

As a law enforcement officer, Maisonave's world was "very black and white." Now, she finds it "a million shades of many colors."

As a cop, if someone broke the law, "I arrested you and there was very little in between," she said. "I had no interest in why you broke the law. I was non-emotional and good at my job."

As a teacher, Maisonave said she has to figure out how best to help students succeed. "Both jobs are like solving a puzzle — a challenge I love to have."



Deborah Maisonave was promoted to NYPD detective in 1999. At her promotion ceremony at 1 Police Plaza, she's flanked by her daughter Kristen and then-Police Commissioner Howard Safir. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Maisonave said she still misses police work, but has no regrets about changing careers.

"It was time for me to move on," she said. "Being a cop at 20 is a lot different physically than being a cop at 40."

Teaching at Doering is "a tremendous

opportunity" said Maisonave. "I look forward to helping students find success and comfort in the math that they will use for the rest of their lives. I also hope I can inspire them to be anything they set their minds to be and do it well."



Deborah Maisonave joined the faculty at Roberta Doering School this year after 10 years teaching in Holyoke and, before that, two decades as a police officer in New York. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

Gas company offers winter safety tips

Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, the natural gas utility serving Agawam, is reminding customers of important safety tips during cold, snowy and icy conditions. To be safe and avoid hazards, customers should:

- Keep natural gas meters clear of snow and ice to ensure they are visible and pathways are accessible at all times should you require maintenance by Columbia Gas employees.
- Keep natural gas meters clear to ensure proper venting.
- Remove snow from the meter with hands or a broom. Never use a shovel, or kick or hit the meter to break away the snow and ice. If the meter is encased in ice, contact Columbia Gas for assistance at 800-677-5052.
- Keep fresh air and exhaust vents for natural gas appliances free of snow, ice and debris to prevent equipment malfunction and the presence of carbon monoxide.
- Use care when removing snow and ice from a rooftop, and not cover or bury the natural gas meter when doing so.
- Use caution when removing snow

from flat rooftops, especially in commercial and industrial buildings to prevent damage. There may be heating and cooling equipment and electric or fuel lines that may not be visible under the snow.

- Make sure all appliances and heating equipment are inspected annually by a licensed professional and are operating properly.
- Never use stoves, ovens or outdoor grills as a source of heat. Check carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors to ensure they operate properly.
- Upon smelling natural gas, leave the area and call 911 from a safe location.

"The safety and comfort of our customers is the number one priority at Columbia Gas, especially during the cold winter months," said Steve Bryant, president of Columbia Gas of Massachusetts. "We ask that everyone take the time to check on their families and neighbors, particularly those who are elderly or in need of special attention."

For more winter safety tips and information, visit www.ColumbiaGasMa.com.

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BEE ■ from page 1

AJHS social studies teacher Nicholas Bernier, who served as moderator, called it an “extraordinary feat” to score well enough on the preliminary test to become a finalist. He added that it was so difficult that even some teachers who attempted to take the test didn’t answer all the questions correctly.

Two compete for top honors

Finalists were tested on their geographic knowledge by answering questions asked by Bernier. When a finalist had two incorrect answers, the student was eliminated from the competition. At the end, Zach and Christian were the two finalists competing for the top honor in a championship round.

The competition lasts about an hour, with one student usually being declared the champion. However, this year — for the first time in the eight years the school has held the Geo Bee — the school named a co-champion. It was because of mistake Bernier made — not a scoring error — when he initially and incorrectly announced Christian was the champion.

“I believed that after two questions in the championship round, the bee was over based on the fact that Zach had gotten one answer wrong,” explained Bernier. But a third question still needed to be asked to give Zach a chance to tie and force a tie-breaking round.

The error was quickly corrected by the judges, and the bee continued. When Christian gave a wrong answer, Zachary was declared the champion. Because of the mix-up, Christian was named co-champion.

AJHS principal Norm Robbins said both names will be engraved on a plaque displayed in the school’s lobby with the names of previous Geo Bee champions. However, only Zach will take the qualifying test next month to potentially qualify for the next level of the competition. The national Geo Bee, started by National Geographic in 1989, will be held in May.

Studying strategy pays off

Zach competed in last year’s Geo Bee as a seventh grader, but finished in the middle. This year he was determined to do better. He even changed his strategy for preparing for the competition.

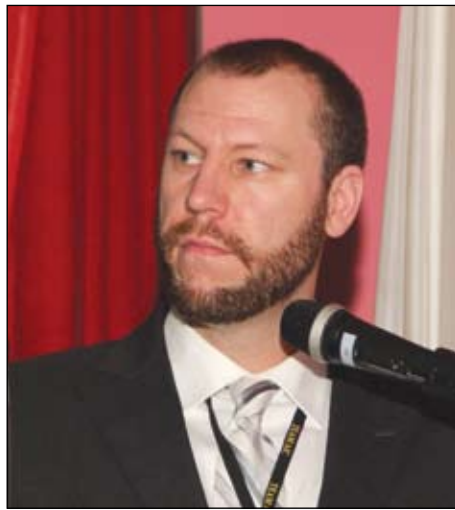
“Last year, I just read information from textbooks, but some of it was ancient. This year, I went to the National Geographic website and reviewed some of the study questions.”

Zach said he felt a “ton of pressure” during the tie-breaking round.

“Every time I got a question, I thought I might have given the wrong answer,” he said. “There was a lot of stress and anxiety. I was relieved when the contest was over.”

Zach didn’t expect to win this year, but he was much more confident.

“I’m very happy with the result,” he said. “I began feeling better about my chances



AJHS social studies teacher Nicholas Bernier.

after the first few rounds.”

As the winner, Zach received a medal and a book. Both he and Christian also got Barnes & Noble gift cards.

‘Outstanding achievement’

Christian’s mother Wendy said she and her husband are “so proud” of him.

“It was an honor for Christian to be one of only three seventh graders seated on the stage,” she said. “He was excited to be one of the top two finalists. As a seventh grader, that’s an outstanding achievement.”

Rua said while the moderator made a mistake, Christian and his family felt supported by the AJHS staff. “The error was recognized and the situation was managed,” she said.

Rua, a School Committee member, attended the Geo Bee.

“I was astonished by the types of geography questions these kids could answer,” she said. “They’re definitely shining stars — all of them.”

The other finalists were eighth graders Jason Breton (third place finisher), Ally Jabry, Alex Karapysh, John Manale, Getuar Preniqi and Mike Santorre, and seventh graders Dave Dagenais and Olivia Salva.

Karen Albano, Zach’s social studies teacher, said she was “very excited” for him.

“He’s a role model for other students and he has a very positive attitude” about learning, she said. She added that one of the things that helped Zach was that he had a “good base of knowledge” from his earlier grades in Agawam.

Viki Quick, Zach’s mother, added that she and his father worked for a travel company: “That was probably very helpful to Zach since our family frequently traveled abroad.”

Bernier said such life experiences can help students remember a place included in a Geo Bee question. He added that other helpful skills include a good memory, the ability to think under pressure, and the ability to use context clues to make educated guesses.



Zachary “Zach” Quick, the 2015 Agawam Junior High School Geography Bee champion, poses with Karen Albano, his social studies teacher. He’s holding his prizes — a medal, a book and a Barnes & Noble gift card — and the plaque with the names of previous Geo Bee winners that will soon include his name. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK



The finalists in the AJHS Geo Bee participated in an event that is similar to a spelling bee, but tests their understanding of places and things around the world.



Geo Bee champion Zachary “Zach” Quick (center, holding plaque) and co-champion Christian Rua (center left) gathered on stage with their social studies teachers and the eight other finalists on Dec. 21.

New Year's Resolutions

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2. Fix the fence.
3. Call ICNE for an insurance quote.



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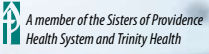


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SPORTS

WRESTLING

Kozlak takes top spot at Tomkiel

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publication Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Phil Tomkiel Holiday Wrestling Tournament was not as lively as originally planned with four teams not making it out to the event due to a winter storm that resulted in mixed precipitation in the region.

With some of the contenders out of the way, it was Tri-County High School that captured the team win in the tournament with 217 points. The Hampden Charter School of Science placed second with 159.5 points, and host Agawam was a close third with 158 points.

Southwick finished in seventh place with 94 points.

The Brownies were able to place several grapplers in the finals of the tournament, but only crowned one champion.

That champion was 195-pounder Spencer Kozlak. He defeated Tri-County's Matt Hobson with a 4-2 decision.

Agawam did have plenty of

runners-ups in the rest of the tournament.

At 113 pounds, Avery Szulc participated in her first tournament and lost a 7-4 decision against Kevin Carlocchi from Tri-County.

In the finals at 132 pounds, Hayden Mendrala suffered a pinfall loss in the second round with about 30 seconds to go. Hampden Charter's Mert Yanbul captured the title in that weight class.

Troy Carroll was defeated in the first period of the 152-pound final against Ben Holyoke from Tri-County.

At 182 pounds, Hai Tran suffered a second period pinfall defeat.

Other champions included Hampden Charter's Gabriel Johnson at 138 pounds. He outlasted Southwick's Eddie Martinez 3-2 for a decision win.

Miguel Gonzalez of Southwick was a 3-2 decision winner over Khalis Kasimove from Hampden Charter, at 145 pounds.

In the 220-pound final, Rome-



Daigon Bishop goes for a pinfall. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

TOMKIEL | page 15



Darno Poppulo wrestles in a 170 pound match for Agawam.



138-pound Eddie Martinez goes for the pin for Southwick.



Jimmy Adams wrestles a 120-pound match for Agawam.

HOCKEY

Falcons rally to overtake Agawam

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Falcons scored three unanswered goals to come from behind and defeat Agawam last Saturday afternoon in ice hockey action 4-2.

Agawam has been struggling to score so far this season since graduating the majority of their top two lines.

But the Brownies were able to get on the board with two goals in the first period.

Domenic Ingham and freshman Preston Kozub tallied the goals for Agawam. Kozub would score on a power play in the first period.

Joshua DeCarolis, however, opened up the scoring with a quick goal just 18 seconds into the game. Agawam would come back to tie quickly before Kozub scored later in the period.

In the second, both teams again had power play opportunities, but no one scored early in the period.



Domenic Ingham competes with Minnechaug's Tyler Rose for possession of the puck. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

While Agawam also had a possession advantage, it was Minnechaug that owned a significant lead in shots on goal.

With 8:59 remaining, Matt Kowal scored just after a faceoff

in Agawam's end. He took a pass from Liam Walsh and sent it past Agawam goalie Nick Askins and tied the game 2-2.

HOCKEY | page 16

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady Brownies get revenge on Chicopee

Mirski helps lead charge

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publication Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam girls basketball team has been sitting on a loss since before the holiday season.

That loss came against Chicopee.

The Lady Brownies had to overcome a lot of rust, but found their shooting late Monday night as they came from behind to defeat host Chicopee, 38-35, in a rematch.

Agawam trailed throughout the first half, and really seemed out of the game when they were limited to just four points in the third quarter.

But things changed in the final frame when the Lady Brownies were able to score 21 points in the final eight minutes of the game to

pull ahead at the end.

The credit went to Christie Mirski, who scored a big 3-pointer, something she has been consistent at doing all season, to tie the game. She followed by a score from Meghan D'Amours to put the Lady Brownies ahead. D'Amours and Mirski would also hit their free throws to help the Lady Brownies stay in the game.

D'Amours had 13 points to lead the Lady Brownies while Mirski had 11 points, including six made free throws.

Mirski's trey was the only one of the game for Agawam.

Agawam and Chicopee traded baskets early in the game, with Ayanna Meadows nailing an early trey to help the Pacers pull ahead.

GIRLS BASKETBALL | page 15

Sports



Western New England junior Joeanna Glantz, of Agawam, (left) and sophomore Lauren Sell, of Milford, Conn., (right) have been named to the 2015 All-Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC) Women's Tennis Team. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS SUBMITTED PHOTO

Glantz named to All-CCC Women's Tennis Team

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England junior Joeanna Glantz, of Agawam, and sophomore Lauren Sell, of Milford, Conn., have been named to the 2015 All-Commonwealth Coast Conference Women's Tennis Team.

Glantz and Sell were selected to the Second Team-Doubles squad after compiling a 5-6 record at the number one flight.

Glantz, a team co-captain, earned a spot on the All-CCC Third Team-Singles unit after posting a 5-4 record at the number two position.

Both student-athletes are two-time All-CCC honorees.

"Joeanna and Lauren have worked incredibly hard and had some fantastic victories this season playing in the top singles and doubles positions. They are both mentally tough and are determined competitors, which sets a great tone for the team. I am very proud of their continued success as leaders in the Conference both on the court and in the classroom," said WNE coach Jennifer Kolins.

Western New England finished with a 6-5 record for its second straight winning season and placed fifth in the conference with a 4-4 mark. The Golden Bears also participated in the CCC Championship.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Spartans shock Brownies late

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publication Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam boys basketball team made up a game against East Longmeadow and fell in the final frame 59-58 Monday night.

The game was a makeup of a strange power outage that occurred on Dec. 14, when the two teams were scheduled for an independent game.

The power would go out in the first quarter with little time remaining, and the game was suspended to Monday night.

In the makeup, the game resumed and the two teams picked up where they left off.

Agawam would hold a late lead in the fourth quarter with about 18 seconds remaining. East Longmeadow had gone to intentional fouls to put Agawam on the free throw line. Down just two points, the strategy worked as Donovan Davis nailed a trey with about 5 seconds remaining to put the Spartans ahead 59-58.

Agawam did try in vain to hit a buzzer-beater themselves, but were not able to do anything with the final few seconds of the game.

The two teams were close throughout the game, with Agawam holding a four-point advantage at halftime. That advantage turned around in the third quarter when both teams had a high-scoring frame,

but the Spartans sank 25 points to take a one-point lead in the final quarter.

Agawam was able to re-take the lead during the fourth, but East Longmeadow was never out of it, and was able to come from behind to steal the win.

Agawam was led by four double-digit performances. Sean Moore had 13 points. John LeClair had 12 points, including two treys. Myles Scott and Joe Moccio each contributed 11 points.

Meesha Ohradka had nine points.

Last Tuesday night, the Brownies defeated Central, 54-50, on the road.

Agawam led early, but Central came right back and trailed by just one point at halftime.

Agawam was able to come out stronger in the second half, and lengthened their lead to four points after three, and Central was not able to overtake them in the final frame as Agawam picked up just its second win of the season.

Moccio had a career-high 24 points. He nailed five treys and hit seven free throws. Ohradka had 16 points. He nailed four treys. Scott also contributed seven points.

Agawam has a long layoff before returning to action on Jan. 12, taking on Chicopee Comp at 7 p.m.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

GIRLS BASKETBALL ■ from page 14

Chicopee was coming off a couple of struggling games in the Connecticut River Classic.

They were able to stay ahead early in the second quarter thanks to baskets from Meadows and Tiana Slaughter.

Agawam stayed close with scores from Allison Wheelere and D'Amours.

The second quarter featured mostly defense from both teams as baskets came at a premium.

The Pacers would hold the halftime lead 17-13.

The Lady Brownies came out flat in the third quarter. The Pacers were not able to do too much either, but managed to stay ahead thanks to Meadows and McKenna

Sousa, who would lead Chicopee with 10 points, including a pair of 3-pointers.

Chicopee was able to manage nine fourth quarter points, but Agawam's shooters got hot at the right time and the Pacer defense could do very little to stop them.

With the victory, Agawam improved to 3-3 for the regular season. They played at home against West Springfield earlier this week and were scheduled to have a very tough game against Longmeadow Thursday at 7 p.m.

Longmeadow is a perfect 7-0 so far this season. They most recently swept through Chicopee and Chicopee Comp in the Connecticut River Classic to take the championship this year.

COLLEGE NEWS

Rackliffe named MASCAC Women's Basketball Player of the Week

FRAMINGHAM – Framingham State women's basketball junior center and Feeding Hills resident Alycia Rackliffe has been named the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference Women's Basketball Player of the Week for the week ending January 3rd.

Rackliffe earns her second player of the week nod this season after averaging a

double double of 19 points, 14.5 rebounds, four blocks, and 3.5 steals en route to being named to the All-Tournament Team at the Clark Holiday Tournament.

Rackliffe compiled a double double of 22 points and 16 rebounds with seven blocks in a win over Clark and closed the tournament with 16 points, 13 rebounds and five steals in a loss to Southern Maine.

Gokey to receive first Depalo Award

AGAWAM - The Boys Varsity Soccer Alumni Association will present the first Depalo Award to Ryan Gokey, of Feeding Hills, Thursday, Jan. 14, in the Peirce Room of the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St.

Gokey, a fourth-grade soccer player, is being recognized for displaying remark-

able achievement at last fall's soccer games as a ballboy. He is the son of Beth and Dan Gokey.

The Depalo Award will be given annually and is named in honor of Depalo family members that have generously given their time for the good of Agawam.

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Gabe Johnson gets the win in the 138-pound match. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

TOMKIEL ■ from page 14

Io Medina win the weight class for Hampden Charter over Chris Farveau.

Hampden Charter's Khalil Kasimov was a runner up in the 126-pound weight class, lasting until the final found before being pinned with 41 seconds remaining in the match.

The Brownies had the remainder of the holiday break off and they returned to action Wednesday night with their first league meet of the season at Longmeadow.

The Brownies are scheduled to move on and face Ludlow on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.



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HOCKEY ■ from page 14

Minnechaug really started to roll with the momentum. Shortly after the tying goal, Anthony Piteo was able to steal the puck in the neutral zone and took it all the way to the goal. But his shot was saved by Askins.

Lucas Cranston was sent to the penalty box for a tripping penalty with 5:43 remaining, but the Falcons were simply outplaying Agawam by that point, and they showed it when they scored a shorthanded goal to go ahead for good in the game.

It started with a play on Agawam's end as they were looking to use the man advantage to retake the lead. Agawam's Brett Fila fed John Passerini, but his shot was saved and the Falcons took over possession.

Piteo and Tyler Rose would take the puck back the other way, and Rose fed Piteo and Piteo wristed it past Askins to make it 3-2 Minnechaug with 4:40 to go in the second period.

Agawam tried frantically, but trailed by that same score after two periods. The Falcons also held a 28-14 shot advantage at that point.

The Falcons scored their insurance goal with 9:06 remaining.

The goal was questioned briefly as Rose lifted a wrist shot toward the goal. Piteo was set up just to the right of the goal and got a stick on it, redirecting it into the goal. The referees discussed it briefly to ensure Piteo had not touched the puck with a body part. The goal stood and Minnechaug rode the rest of the game to a big win over the Brownies.

Minnechaug goalie Aleks Vanderleeden finished with 20 saves for the win while Askins took the loss, making 34 saves.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.



Josh DeCarolis makes a move up the ice with Agawam's Brett Fila ready to defend. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Nick Frigo tries to make a move up the ice.



Minnechaug goalie Aleks Vanderleeden makes a save.



John Passerini and Anthony Piteo fight for the puck.

Ski, hockey tickets available at Park & Rec

AGAWAM — The Parks & Recreation Winter Brochure is now available online at www.agawam.ma.us.

Discounted Ski Blandford tickets are available for \$25 each and can be used any day that the mountain is open for skiing during the 2015-16 season. Tickets will be available at the Parks & Recreation Department, 1000 Suffield St., beginning Monday, Dec. 14. Call 413-821-0514 for more information.

mation.

Discounted Springfield Falcons tickets may be purchased for \$15 each at the Agawam Park & Recreation Department. The vouchers can be exchanged at the Falcons box office at any time for any Falcons home game. Call 413-821-0514 for more information.

These tickets make great Christmas presents and/or stocking stuffers.

'Step Up To the Line' free throw contest

SOUTH WICK - All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship.

The local competition in Southwick will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 13 at the Southwick Powder Mill School, 94 Powder Mill Road; with a start time of 2:30 p.m. Snow date will be Wednesday, Jan. 27, at the same time and same location.

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually with winners progressing through local, district, and state competition. International champions are announced by the K of C international headquarters based on scores

from the state level competitions. All boys and girls 9 to 14 years old are eligible to participate and will compete in respective age divisions. Last year more than 344,000 sharpshooters participated in over 4,700 local competitions.

All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

For entry forms or additional information, please contact Al Matos District Deputy for Fr. Thomas Shea Council 11178 in Southwick at 413-569-6914 or your physical education teacher at Powder Mill Middle School.

Babe Ruth signups announced

WESTFIELD - Greater Westfield Babe Ruth League president Dan Welch has announced signups for the 2016 baseball season. The signups will be held on Friday, Jan. 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. and on Saturday, Jan. 9 from 10 a.m. to noon.

The signups will be held at the new Westfield Senior Center located at 45 Noble St.

The Greater Westfield Babe Ruth League has provided competitive baseball for more than 60 years. Players from Westfield, Southwick, Granville, Montgomery, Blandford, Huntington, Agawam, West Springfield and Southampton are invited to sign up. The league provides baseball opportunities for players from age 13 through age 16. New players at all ages are chosen for teams each season.

The league's success can be attributed to the many trained coaches and league volunteers that work tirelessly to support the league. The league has enjoyed great success in the 2012 and 2014 seasons with teams earning trips to the Babe Ruth World Series Tournaments in Kitsap County, Wash., and Ocala, Fla.

Westfield Babe Ruth provides the travel ball experience without the high cost to join other programs. Most games are played at Bullens Field in Westfield.


Westfield Babe Ruth has also been selected to host the 2016 14-year-old World Series. This will be a great opportunity to showcase the city of Westfield and our league to Regional Champion teams from around the country.

Advance signups for try-

outs to be held in February are required. Please contact Dan Welch at 413-530-3374 if you have any questions. A copy of a player's birth certificate is needed for signups.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



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or contact Kurt Carpenter @ kcarpenter@granbypd.org

www.pioneervalleyhockey.org

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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote free events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 413-786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Friday, Jan. 8

THE ACC APPLAUSE SERIES starts the new year with a presentation of local phenomena by Agawam Paranormal at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. Free and open to the public. For more information on Applause, visit www.agawamcc.org.

SECOND ANNUAL SCOUTING ALUMNI REUNION hosted by the Boy and Girl Scout units of Southwick, Granville and Tolland 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All former Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, Explorers, Scouters and other adult volunteers are invited. RSVP by emailing alumni@wmascouting.org or calling Alicia Garcia at 413-594-9196, ext. 7031. There is no cost to attend, and guests are invited to bring Scouting memorabilia or pictures to share.

Saturday, Jan. 9

MERRIMACK VALLEY KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW, today and Sunday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Young Building on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Free admission.

Sunday, Jan. 10

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD COIN CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. in the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St., West Springfield. A special coin topic to be presented and discussed. Refreshments available. Guests welcome. For more information, call Peter Setian at 413-596-9871.

Wednesday, Jan. 13

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam, offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

Thursday, Jan. 14

COLORING FOR GROWN-UPS at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. All coloring pages and supplies provided as well as snacks (adults only). To register, call 413-789-1550, ext. 4 or visit www.agawamlibrary.org.

Friday, Jan. 15

NORTHEASTERN POULTRY CONGRESS today from noon to 7 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Mallary Complex on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Free admission

Saturday, Jan. 16

SPRINGFIELD MOTORCYCLE SHOW sponsored by the Outdoor Sports Expo Group in the Young Building on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West

Springfield. Today 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission, \$15; Children 6 to 12, \$5.

AUTO PARTS SWAP 'N SELL sponsored by Start-Finish Productions, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. today, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday in the Better Living Center on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. General admission, \$12; free for children 12 and under with paid adult.

Tuesday, Jan. 19

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL will meet at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public.

Wednesday, Jan. 20

THE TOBACCO VALLEY ARTISTS ASSOCIATION will meet and hold an and art demonstration at 6:30 p.m., at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. Artist Diane Caswell Christian will demonstrate the use of fibers in creating a landscape painting. The public is welcome.

EASTERN NATIONAL PIGEON SHOW today 3 to 10 p.m., Thursday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Mallary Complex on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield.

Friday, Jan. 22

THE WOODWORKING SHOW today from noon to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Young Building on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. \$12 at the door (cash only); 16 and under admitted free with paid adult. Active duty military, police and fire with identification admitted free.

Saturday, Jan. 23

SPRINGFIELD BRIDAL EXPO sponsored by Jenks Productions, Inc., today and tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Betty Living Center on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Admission, \$10; children 12 and under free. Register online to receive discount coupon.

Monday, Jan. 25

STAFF FROM FEEDING HILLS WELLNESS will offer free 10-minute sessions of either Reiki or therapeutic massage from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. Registration, which begins Jan. 4, is recommended, as time slots are limited, and is by phone only at 413-789-1550, ext. 4.

Friday, Jan. 29

FIRST PERSON PRESENTATION, "Letters Home During the Civil War," from 7 to 8 p.m. at Storowton Village Museum Meetinghouse on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Admission \$5; children under 6 free.

Saturday, Jan. 30

RAILROAD HOBBY SHOW today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Better Living Center, Young Building, Stroh Building and Mallary Complex on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Admission \$14; children 15 and under free when accompanied by an adult. Special online two-

ticket pricing.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERT, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield, will feature the Devine-Nix Duo at 10:30 a.m. Reception to follow. For more information, call Yolanda Martin at 413-736-0766 or email firgo9654@aol.com.

Friday, Feb. 12

DAN JONES, EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES column "Modern Love," will share his stories and read from his books at 10:10 a.m. the 11:15 a.m. at Scibelli Hall at STCC as part of its free Ovations series. For more information, call 413-755-4233 or email pcodonoghue@stcc.edu.

ONGOING

GRANDPARENT'S PLAYGROUP Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. This free infant and toddler playgroup features music and movement, fostering children's interactions and sharing skills. Open to all grandparents and their grandchildren. Follows school schedule.

MOM 2 MOM takes place the second Tuesday of every month October through June, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. A roundtable discussion hosted by a local "veteran" mom, this is a great way to have further conversation on recent café themes and parent education events, celebrate parenting and receive encouragement for the trials.

THE AGAWAM ST. PATRICK COMMITTEE meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Rectory conference room, 833 Main St., Agawam. For information on how to join, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247 or email Rosemary Sandlin at rosemarysandlin@gmail.com

Lunch Menu

Monday, Jan. 11: Tortellini in meat sauce, garden salad, oranges.
Tuesday, Jan. 12: Roast turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, fresh squash, gravy, mixed fruit.
Wednesday, Jan. 13: Beef peppersteak, mashed potatoes, carrots, baked good.
Thursday, Jan. 14: Baked ham, roasted sweet potatoes, peas, pudding.
Friday, Jan. 15: Seafood casserole, cucumber dill salad, applesauce.

Calendar of Events

Monday, Jan. 11: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9 a.m., Painting Club; 9:30 a.m., line dancing; 10 a.m., Fallon Insurance agent available; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., bingo; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold.
Tuesday, Jan. 12: S.H.I.N.E. representative available (by appt.); reiki with Carlene; 9 a.m., exercise, knitting class, sewing class; 10 a.m., chair ex-

ercise, Computer Technology Club; 12:30 p.m., mah jongg, movie ("The Longest Ride"); 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg; 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 4 p.m., Disability Commission meeting; 4:30 p.m., yoga; 6 p.m., beginner line dance; 7 p.m., Garden Club meeting (conference room).

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers "Crochet Club" every other Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club is open to all needle-workers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

THE LADIES GLEE CLUB AND MEN'S CHOIR at the Springfield Turnverein, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, are back to work. Practice is held every Wednesday with the ladies beginning at 7 p.m. followed by the men at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. There is space available for anyone interested in joining.

A BREAST CANCER AND MASTECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

AN ALL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

A BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets the second Wednesday of each month at Heritage Woods Assisted Facility, 462 Main St., Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at 888-613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.

Agawam Senior Center

Wednesday, Jan. 13: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 10:30 p.m., educational seminar with Springfield Neurology group (pre-registration required); 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., Scrabble; 1:30 p.m., Golden Age Club Chapter 2 meeting; 5:30 p.m., no Zumba Gold.
Thursday, Jan. 14: 9 a.m., exercise, 10 a.m., quilting, line dancing; 12:30 p.m., bridge, 1 p.m., pitch, open art, free blood pressure check; 2 p.m., Melody Band practice; 4:15 p.m., pilates; 6:30 p.m., pitch, evening line dance.
Friday, Jan. 15: 8 a.m., yoga; 9:15 a.m., all media art class; 10 a.m., tai chi; noon, canasta; 1 p.m., pitch, cribbage; Zumba Gold.

Church Directory

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

745 Main St., Agawam
786-7111
Pastor: Rev. Greg E. Dawson
office@AgawamCong.com
www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10 a.m.
Communion on the first Sunday of the month. Church school is in session and fellowship coffee hour follows the service. "A place to call home ~ A people to call family"

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

459 Mill St., Feeding Hills
413-786-4174
Pastor: Ken Blanchard
agawamumc@gmail.com
www.agawamworship.org

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday 10 a.m.
Holy Communion served 1st and 3rd Sundays.
Coffee hour after worship; Bible Study after fellowship.
Prepare Meal for Samaritan Inn Homeless Shelter 2nd Saturdays 2-5 p.m.
Offsite Worship:
Heritage East, 1st Mondays, 11 a.m.
Heritage North, 1st Tuesdays, 11 a.m.
Heritage Woods, 1st Mondays, 11 a.m.
Country Estates, 2nd & 5th Thurs., 11 a.m.

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WORSHIP SERVICES
Summer Schedule
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Sunday school for children and nursery for younger children

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH

370 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam
(413) 786-1681
jesussaves.7@comcast.net
Website: www.faithbible-church.org
Pastor: Rick Donofrio

SERVICES
Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting and Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

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fhccucc@comcast.net
Pastor: The Rev. Robert C. Donaldson

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
Church School 10:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10 a.m.
Infant and child care provided.
Handicap accessible.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AGAWAM

760 Main St., Agawam
churchedie@comcast.net
www.firstbaptistagawam.org
Pastor: Rev. George Thomson

SUNDAY SERVICES
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School (grades K - 5) following Children's Message until 10:45
Youth Group meets at 11 a.m.
Coffee & Conversation following worship service

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

152 South Westfield St.
Feeding Hills
789-2026

SUNDAY SERVICES
Men's & Women's Bible Study Groups and Children's Sunday School Worship Service at 10 a.m. Children's Church for age 3 to high school takes place after the service. Nursery available for younger children. A time for fellowship after the service.

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

522 Springfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030
413-821-0937
Senior Elders Bob and Barbara Olmstead
Email: office@lighthousema.com
Web: www.lighthousema.com

WORSHIP SERVICE
Saturday evening Celebration at 6-8 PM
Saturday evening Prayer from 5-5:45 PM
1-hour classes for children ages 3 to 12 during service
Nursery available for younger children
SMALL GROUP MEETINGS in homes during the week
(call or see website for more information)

MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH

522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
Feeding Hills, MA
478-9484
David L. Short, Pastor

Sun. Family Bible Study Hour, 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Service, 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, 7 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
(413) 786-8200
www.SacredHeartFeedingHills.org
Fr. Steven Amo

WEEKLY SERVICES

Lord's Day Masses: Saturday, 4 p.m.; Sunday, 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
Confessions: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m.

Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.
Special Devotions: Perpetual Novena to the Sacred Heart following the Friday 9 a.m. Mass

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Harvey Hill
699 Springfield St.
Feeding Hills
(413) 786-6133
saintdavidsc@comcast.net
www.stdavidsgawam.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday 8 a.m. Rite I and Holy Eucharist
10 a.m. Rite II and Holy Eucharist
Sunday school and Nursery during 10 a.m. service. Coffee hour following the 10 a.m. service. Handicap Accessible

OFFSITE WORSHIP
Church without Walls, 2nd Sunday of the month at 12 p.m. at Parish Pantry, West SpringfieldHoly Eucharist and distribution of bag lunches

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

823 Main St., Agawam
786-8105
info@stjohnangelistchurch.org
www.stjohnagawam.org

SCHEDULE OF MASSES
Saturdays: 5 p.m. Sundays: 8 & 10:30 a.m.
Reconciliation: Fridays, 7:15 to 8 a.m., Saturdays, 4 to 4:45 p.m.
Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri., 8 a.m.
Thursday: Communion Service



Tips to help students choose the right major

As recent college graduates can no doubt attest, the job market for young people can be difficult to navigate. Many recent graduates are still struggling to find full-time employment, and some might be wondering if they chose the right major.

Though choosing a major is about more than just finding a job, the financial burden of earning a college degree can't be ignored. According to the Project on Student Debt, 71 percent of college seniors who graduated in 2012 had student loan debt, with an average of \$29,400 per borrower. In fact, between 2008 and 2012, the average student loan debt at graduation increased an average of 6 percent each year. So while the right major should incorporate a student's interests, skills and strengths, it's also important to find a major that can help students earn a living after they walk across the stage and receive their diplomas.

The following are a handful of tips college students can employ to ensure they choose the right major.

Don't jump into it

Some students might want to pick a major before they ever step foot on campus. While that strategy might work for some, it should only be employed by those students who are wholly certain a major is for them. Some students choose a major early on because they feel they may get a head start at navigating their way through a job market that recently endured exceptionally high levels of unemployment. But the pressure of finding a job should not be what drives students when choosing a major. Unless you're entirely certain that a particular course of study is for you, give yourself some leeway and wait to choose a major. The first year or two of college is a great time to expand your academic horizons so use that time to your advantage.

Don't procrastinate

While rushing into a major is a mistake, it's also foolish to procrastinate with regard to choosing a course of study. According to The College Board's annual survey of colleges, the average

tuition and fees at private nonprofit four-year colleges for the 2013-14 school year was \$30,094, while public four-year in-state tuition and fees averaged slightly less than \$9,000 for the same year. So no matter which type of college or university a student enrolls in, he or she will be making a significant financial commitment. Waiting too long to choose a course of study may find you paying for courses you ultimately won't need, increasing your already expensive tuition along the way.

Use the resources at your disposal

Students undecided about a college major should make use of their schools' career development departments to help them get on the right path. Many such departments provide assessment tools to help students find a major that synthesizes their interests and skills with a field of study. In addition, the personnel within career development departments have dealt with hundreds, if not thousands, of previous students who found themselves in similar situations, and that experience

can prove invaluable to students who might feel lost with regard to choosing majors.

Know the requirements if you have a specific career in mind

While many majors are not difficult to navigate, some fields of study have strict guidelines that students should be aware of almost immediately. For example, students hoping to attend medical school after graduation need to determine which courses they absolutely must take in order to qualify for medical school. In addition, students with such specific plans in mind often must choose their majors as early as possible so they can plan their curriculum in accordance with the standards they will need to meet to be considered for postgraduate work.

Choosing a major is a decision college students should not take lightly. But students who are unsure of what they want to study should approach the process of choosing a major with patience and an eye on finding a course of study that matches their interests with their skills.

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Blessed Sacrament School motto... A Positive Place to Be

Our school community continues to grow and prosper under the leadership of our school Principal, Mrs. Anne O'Connor. As enrollment increases and families discover the wonderful programs we offer, Blessed Sacrament School is living up to our motto..."A Positive Place to Be!"

The recent purchase of two iPad carts containing thirty tablets each and updated Wifi in all buildings has given our faculty the ability to integrate their lessons with today's technology. Students as young as 3 yrs. old are using the iPads in their curriculum! The Early Childhood Center at Blessed Sacrament School continually demonstrates that ours is truly an education based preschool program.

Our many after school activities and

clubs have expanded this year to include a Golf Club, Movie Club and the new Kayak Club. Students in grades 5 & 6 spent a few weeks this fall on the Connecticut River learning to Kayak with the support the Holyoke Rows program, one of Holyoke's hidden gems!

OPEN HOUSE
Wed., February 3
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Along with our faith-based principles, our high standard of academic excellence, and our many extra-curricular activities...we continue to foster a caring community among our students, faculty and families.

Join us during Catholic Schools Week for our Open House on Wednesday evening February 3 from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Come see why we say Blessed Sacrament School in Holyoke is "A Positive Place to Be!"

An Open Letter to Families Considering Catholic Education

Our region has a long and faith-filled history of providing Catholic education to area students. Looking to the future, it is important that we take a critical look to see where we are and where we want to be in the overall context of bringing Christ to our adolescent students. The task before us is to assess how effectively we are transmitting our faith to young people and assisting parents in their role.

St. Mary's High School in Westfield has been serving the families of this Diocese for nearly 120 years. While the number of students enrolled in Catholic education throughout the Diocese and country continues to decline, St. Mary's continues to persevere. We stand committed to offering an excellent academic program, while remaining the most affordable option in the area.

In the wake of the attention that has been paid to the Diocese of Springfield's announcement of its regional school, Pope Francis High School, it seems that St. Mary's High School has been lost in the conversation. Located just across the river, we have retained our identity as a parish school and are therefore able to be most responsive to the needs of our students and their parents. Our small class sizes and family oriented environment, prepare our students to become the responsible, faith-filled leaders of our future.

We are proud of our stability and long tradition and look forward to 100 years of educational excellence. With this in mind, I ask the families who have their hearts set on a fine parochial education, to consider St. Mary's High School.

God Bless You!

Catholics Schools Week - Jan. 31 - Feb. 6, 2016





OPEN HOUSE
Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016
6:30pm-8:00pm



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Pope Francis High School Placement Test to be held Feb. 6

A PROGRAM FOR PARENTS OF HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

CHICOPEE – Pope Francis High School today announced that the placement test for prospective ninth grade students interested in attending the new Catholic high school in September 2016 will be held Saturday, Feb. 6 at 8 a.m. (Snow date is Saturday, Feb. 13). The test will take place at Holyoke Catholic High School, 134 Springfield St., Chicopee.

The creation of Pope Francis High School was announced in the spring of 2015 when Springfield Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski revealed that Cathedral High School and Holyoke Catholic High School would be merging into a new school, named in honor of the current Pope. The official merger will take place to coincide with the next academic year, 2016-2017, during which all Pope Francis students will attend

school at the current Holyoke Catholic location in Chicopee until the new facility is built at the former Cathedral site on Wendover Road in Springfield.

“We have received positive feedback from the community so far and look forward to welcoming our prospective ninth grade students during the placement test in February,” said Pope Francis Director of Admissions, Ann Rivers. “We understand that students flourish in an environment of academic enrichment, faith and service. Pope Francis High School builds on the excellence of our legacy schools and prepares students for a successful college experience.”

For more information about the placement test, contact Ann Rivers at 413-331-2480 ext. 1132 or email arivers@popefrancishigh.org. To learn

more about Pope Francis High School, visit popefrancishigh.org.

About Pope Francis High School

Pope Francis High School is a four-year, co-educational college preparatory school formed through the merger of Cathedral High School and Holyoke Catholic High School. Currently located in the city of Chicopee at the Holyoke Catholic High School on Springfield Street, a new facility is planned for the former location of Cathedral High School on Surrey Road in Springfield. Beginning in 2016, both Cathedral and Holyoke Catholic High School students will attend Pope Francis High School at the Chicopee location. The new school in Springfield is expected to open for the 2018-2019 school year. For more information about Pope Francis High School, visit popefrancishigh.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

The home improvement market, which includes both improvements and maintenance, has rebounded considerably from its most recent low point in 2011.

The Joint Center for Housing Studies (JCHS) of Harvard University indicated in early 2015 that the upcoming year would surpass the \$324 billion spent on improvements during the peak of the housing boom a decade ago.

Even though homebuilding and the home industry in general is still not at complete recovery, trends within the home improvement industry do suggest that homeowners have once again become comfortable investing in their homes.



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FRANCIS
HIGH
SCHOOL

Register
now!

The time is now to apply for the 2016 school year!

Placement Test

Saturday, February 6, 2016 • 8:00 am

For prospective ninth grade students who are interested in attending Pope Francis High School in September 2016. **Placement Test registration forms** may be downloaded from our website at www.popefrancishigh.org or call Ann Rivers, Director of Admissions at 413-331-2480, ext. 1132 to request one by mail. **Snow date:** February 13, 2016.

The Placement Test will take place at HCHS at 134 Springfield Street, Chicopee, MA. The new Pope Francis High School building is scheduled to open in Springfield in 2018.

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Party at cinema benefits soup kitchen

Employees, friends and clients of Bulldog Enterprises collected nearly 300 items of canned food or dry goods for charity at their Dec. 27 holiday party at Agawam Cinemas.

Bill Bullock, owner of the Chicopee-based marketing company, had asked all those attending the private screening of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" to participate in a food drive to benefit Lorraine's Soup Kitchen in Chicopee.

"We collected near 300 can food and dry goods for Lorraine's and I have been getting calls, emails and text messages from people that came last night about how much fun they

had and how nice the cinemas were. Kim at the Agawam Cinemas did an amazing job with the renovations" said Bullock.

Gwen A. Burke, development coordinator for the Friends of the Homeless Inc. was in attendance that night, and credited Bullock and Bulldog for previous donations and advocacy for her group.

For more information on Bulldog Enterprises, call 413-459-4663.

Bulldog Enterprises' food drive at Agawam Cinemas benefited a soup kitchen in Chicopee. SUBMITTED PHOTO



Announcing Agawam's Brand New Memory Care Neighborhood



Heritage Woods

Assisted Living Community
Genesis HealthCareSM

Heritage Woods is pleased to announce the opening of its new memory care neighborhood, The Birches.

Following the Genesis HomesteadTM Program,

The Birches was created to care for people with Alzheimer's or other dementias in a secure, nurturing environment.

The Birches includes:



We are now taking apartment reservations. Call to schedule your tour!



- Private Apartments
- Up to 2 hours/day of personal care assistance including medication management
- Three daily meals
- Activities 7 days/week
- Housekeeping
- Respite Care

OPEN HOUSE
Sat., Feb. 27, 10-2pm

Heritage Woods Assisted Living Community

462 Main Street, Agawam, MA • (413) 789-8332

www.geneshicc.com/heritagewoods